

THE GALLANT
HISTORY
OF THE
Life and Death
Of that most Noble Knight, S I R,
BEVIS
OF
Southampton.

Wherein is contained much Variety of pleasant and delightful
Reading.



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without Newgate.





The Gallant
HISTORY
OF
Bevis of Southampton.

CHAP. I.

Of the Birth of *Bevis*, and of the Death of his Father.

IN the Reign of Edgar, King of England, there was a most Renowned Knight, whose Name was Sir Guy, the Earl of Southampton, whose Deeds did exceed all the Valiant Knights in this Kingdom; who thirsting after Fame betook himself to Travel: And first he sailed into France, Flanders, Almain, Brabant, Sicily, Denmark, Calice, Gascoine, Hungaria, Spain, Estland, Norway, Picardy, Scotland, Lombardy, Wales: All these Parts he travelled in his Youth, and Conquered all his Opposers with his unmatch'd Strength, and Victorious hand, fighting under the Banner of Christ, against all Mischlanders whatsoever they were. Thus spending the best part of his Strength for the Glory of Christ, and the honour of his Country, he then returned into England again: King Edgar hearing that

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that Sir Guy was returned, sent a Messenger for him presently to do him honour for the valiant Deeds that he had done: Sir Guy with all speed rode to the King, by whom he was Royally entertained, and all his Nobles; and after great Feasting, the King, according to Sir Guy's desert, made him High Steward of England: then Sir Guy would betake him to a Wife, and the King of Scotland having a fair Daughter, Sir Guy made suit unto her: but the Emperors brother of Almain was a Suitor unto her likewise, and he loved Sir Murdure better then he loved Sir Guy; but the King her Father knowing Sir Guy to be a most Noble Peer of England, he gave his Daughter to him in Marriage: yet still she affected Murdure best; but Guy not knowing her hatred to him, returned with great Pomp into England, with his deceitful Lady. Not long after this he had a Son by her, and they name him Bevis: At the Birth of his Child was exceeding Joy and Triumph, with many Banquettings; Then Sir Guy was confident his Ladies Heart was firmly link'd to his, with the never-breaking Bands of Love; but he good Knight, was much deceived; for she (like Janus) bore a double face, one for Sir Guy, which frowned, but the other, which was for Sir Murdure, smiled; for his Wife perceiving he was old, betook her self to love Sir Murdure, and called a Servant to her, whom she might well trust, and said; Thou must sail into *Almain* with speed, and keep my secrets, and say unto Sir *Murdure* the Emperors Brother, that I greet him kindly, and that I do desire him to provide a great company of Knights and Gentlemen to come along with dim into *England*, with all speed, and meet my Husband, which is hateful to me to look on, and tell him, that I will send Sir *Guy* into my Forrest, purposely to be slain by Sir *Murdure*; and then tell him I am his: Bid him perform this and live with me; the time he shall meet Sir *Guy*, shall be on the first of *May*. The Message being delivered, Sir *Murdure* was resolved to perform what she commanded: so on the first of *May* she feigned her self very sick and weak, and called for her Husband, and said unto him, That she would desire him to go into the Forrest, and slay a wild Beast for her to eat. This worthy Knight not thinking of her Treachery, took a Steed, girt a Sword about him, and with a Spear in his hand, rode.

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rode to the Forrest with speed: By this time Sir Murdure and his Company was entred the Forrest, who meeting Sir Guy, said, Traytor, for the love I bear to thy Lady, thou shalt quickly lose thy life, and after this, i'll slay thy Son; for why, thy Wife belongs to me. With that Sir Guy set Spurs to his Horse, and rode with such violence against this Murdure, that he threw him out of his Saddle: Then Sir Murdure thinking he should have been slain, cryed out to his followers, who came presently and set upon Sir Guy, and swore he should lose his Life: Then Sir Guy desired but to fight with Sir Murdure hand to hand, and then if he lost his Life, he would forgive them all; but they would not grant his request, but slew him presently, and cut off his head, and sent it to his Lady; who received it joyfully, and gave the Messenger a great Reward: this Treachery being accomplished, Sir Murdure made hast unto the Castle of Sir Guy; and there was Royally received of Sir Guy's Wife: where for a while I leave them to their pleasures, and now come to speak of young Bevis,



CHAP. II.

How Bevis kept Sheep; and how he went to his Fathers house, and slew the Porter of the Gate, and many other things that happened.

BEvis hearing how basely his Father was killed, ran to his Mother, and vowed if ever he came to Age, that he would be revenged on her, and on that base Traytor, Sir Murdure. With that his Mother gave her Son a box on the ear, which fell down Bevis to the ground: Sir Sabere, being Brother to Sir Guy, was very sorrowful for the death of his Brother: and seeing his Nephew so misused, catch'd him up in his Arms, and carried him away: his Mother sent presently after Sir Sabere, privately to murder her Son Bevis: Sir Sabere said he would, & dyest Bevis in

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in old Cloaths, and sent to keep his Sheep: so Bevis went to the top of a Hill near his Fathers Castle, where his Uncles Sheep were. In the mean time Sir Sabere killed a Pig, and dypt the Garments of the Child in the blood thereof: now Bevis all this while sat weeping upon the Hill, but hearing Trumpets sounding at his Fathers Castle, and much Melody, for joy that his Mother had obtained her desire, Bevis cast off care of keeping Sheep, & ran with his Shepherds Crook on his Shoulder to the Castell, and knocking at the Gate, the Porter denied him entrance: With that young Bevis with his Crook, gave him such a bang on the Crown, which fell to the earth; then into the Hall he went, where Sir Murdure sat at Table with his Mother, and many Knights and Ladies (though all in Rags, he shewed them of what house he came on) and with a violent blow struck Sir Murdure under the Table, and swoye if it had not been against Nature, he would send his Mother after his own Father. With that all the Knights in the Hall sought to lay hands on him; but Bevis forc'd his way through the midst of them, and got clear away: Sir Sabere meeting Bevis running from the Castle, said, Where hast thou been? Bevis answered, at my Fathers Castle, where I slew the Porter of the Gate and knockt my Father under the Table, and was about to kill my mother, but that Nature taught me the contrary: Alas, said his Uncle, thou hast betrayed us both, yet once more will I save thee. The mother of Bevis (like a woman distracted of her wits) came running to her Brother in great haste, and said; What? hast thou not slain that young Villain? Madam, quoth he, he is dead: Villain, said she, thou lyest: If thou dost not make him away the sooner, it shall cost thy life and his both: Madam, said he, behold his Cloaths dipped in blood: Bevis hearing her speeches, kept out of the Chamber, and was ready to tear her in pieces, but she escaped out of his hands by the help of her Brother: then he entreated Sir Sabere and another Knight to cast Bevis into the Sea, and down him, which they did consent unto, to pacifie her wrath,

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CHAP. III.

How *Bevis* was sold unto the *Parims*, and carried over the Sea into *Armony*, and presented to King *Ermine*.

AND going to the Sea-side, they met with Merchants of Armony, Sir Sabere sold Bevis to them: the Merchants soon arrived in Armony, and then presented Bevis to the King; the King gave them many thanks, and swore by his God Mahound, he never saw such a sweet-fac'd Boy in all his life: Then the King asked him where he was born? In England, said Bevis; Whole Son wast thou there? said the King: Sir Guy's of Southampton quoth Bevis: I have heard much talk of thy Father (said the King) and by Report he was a valiant Knight as ever yet drew Sword: I have but one fair Daughter (said the King) and if thou wilt forsake thy God, and serve Apoline our god, thou shalt have my Daughter to Wife, and enjoy my Kingdom after me. Not so, my Lord, said Bevis, for all the Beauties in the World I would not deny my Creator. Then said the King, wilt thou be my Chamberlain? and when I find thy desert, I'll dub thee a Knight, and thou shalt bear my Standard in the Field against my Foes: What you please to command me, my Lord: said he, save denying of my God, I will do. Bevis was so beloved of the King, that none durst speak against him; Nay, Josian the Kings Daughter was in love with him. As it chanced on Christmas-day Bevis rode into the Field to recreate himself, and meeting with threescore Sarazens, one of them asked him what day it was: Bevis answered, I know not; for I was not seven years old when I came out of my own Country: Then said the Sarazens, upon this day thy God was born, and wilt thou not honour thy God on his Birth-day? Yes, said Bevis, if I was as well armed as my Father was, you should know that I would honour this day better than ever you honoured your god Apoline: Which that they all run upon him, thinking to kill him presently: but Bevis having no Weapon, got one of their Swords away, and with the same made their Swords to run home without their Riders; for he slew and wounded all the Sarazens. The King hearing

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ing what Bevis had done against his god Apoline, swore he should dye; then Josian down on her knees, and desired her Father that Bevis might live, which the King granted: then Josian went to Bevis and kissed him, and dressed his Wounds, and then brought him to the King her Father; who, when he saw Bevis so wounded, the Tears ran down his Cheeks, and then he prayed Josian to do the best she could to cure his Wounds, which she performed in a little space; so Bevis grew as sound as ever he was.

CHAP. IV.

How *Bevis* one morning slew a mighty wild Boar in the Forrest.

VAtthin that Country there was a great Forrest, and within the same there was a mighty wild Boar, that devoured Man, Woman, and Child; Bevis hearing of him, one Morning early he saddled his Steed, and took a good Sword by his side, and rode to the Forrest, to try a Combat with his wild Boar; and riding to and fro, it was his luck to find the Cave where this wild Boar was, and as he tied his Steed to a Tree, out came the Boar, and so assailed Bevis, that he was fain to shrink back: then Bevis recovering ground, made at him with a Spear, and burst it all in pieces; then out he drew his Sword, and laid many a heavy blow upon the Boars Whistles, but could not make any entrance into the flesh; & at last by good fortune the Boar came at him with an open mouth, and Bevis having that advantage, with one violent blow cut his upper Jaw asunder: at which the Boar gave such a cry, as would have frightened a thousand men, had they been in the hearing of it: then into his throat Bevis thrust his Sword and killed him outright, and with much ado cut off his Head, and stuck it upon the Truncheon of his spear, and so mounted himself upon his Steed, and as he was riding homewards, twelve Foresters set upon him to take the Boars head away, that they might get the Honour which Bevis had ventured his life for: And indeed Bevis was unprovided; for he (with very joy that he had slain the Boar) left his Sword behind him, but yet he made a pretty

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gift with them, for he killed nine of them, and the other three ran away: and then Bevis had free way to ride to the Court without any hindrance. There was many Spectators to behold Bevis with the Boars-head, among which company was fair Josian beholding Bevis with great joy: and Bevis seeing Josian smile, began to ride Majestically towards her, and entered the Court, fair Josian had him welcome, and brought him to the King; so when Bevis presented the Boars-head, the King received it, and gave Bevis many thanks, and swore by Apoline, for slaying the Bear he would do him great honour.



C H A P. V.

How *Bevis* was made a Knight, and a General of Twenty Thousand Men, to go against *Brandmond*.

ABout this time King Brandamond sent an Ambassador to King Ermine, to have fair Josian to his wife or else he would beat him out of his Country: Then Ermine assembled all his Lords and Barons together to advice what to do: some said it was better to let Josian go, rather than to hazard the loss of his Crown and Kingdom: Josian knowing their resolution spoke to her Father in this manner: Father (said she) if you will be pleased to make Bevis General over an Host of men, he would maintain your right and conquer your foes. The King hearing of his daughters words sent for Bevis and dubb'd him a Knight, and chose out twenty thousand men to go under Sir Bevis's Command: then Josian fitted on his Armour, & gave him a Sword called Morglay; then he brought him a Steed called Arundel; so Sir Bevis being mounted, Josian viewed him well, and smiled at him, and Bevis smiled on her again; and then saluting her, away he rode with all his Host against Brandmond and his Host: Brandmond seeing Bevis's Army to be no more, laughed at them; Dost thou laugh, said Bevis? I'll make thee curse the time that ever thou camest hither; then setting his Golden Spurs to his Steed, he ran full drive at Brandmond, that Brandmond thought sure he should have dyed at that hour, and

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seeing Radifon was slain, his heart began to faint : The Armies both did fight courageously, and many men were lost on both sides : then Brandmond took two of Bevis's Knights Prisoners ; but Bevis met with them, and selled Brandmond to the ground, Hoyle and all, and took him Prisoner : O sir, said Bevis, I'll have you to Josian : save my life, cryed Brandmord, and save me whither thou wilt : so Bevis returned with great Victory, and was Royally entertained of the King ; and then Josian broke her mind to Bevis ; quoth she, by Mahound, I do desire to be thy Love ; Not so Lady, said Bevis, I'll wed no Heathenness ; Which words she took very scornfully ; Bevis, perceiving her anger, said, Lady adieu, for I shall never see you again ; and so he left her, and went to his Chamber ; then Josians heart began to throb, and what to do she knew not ; at last she sent two Knights unto him, to desire him to come unto her, but Bevis would not ; then she went her self, and said, My Lord, I would entreat you not to leave me now, but grant me that I shall be thy Wife, and I'll do whatsoever thou wilt have me to do ; I'll forsake my Gods, and turn a Christian for your sake, Sir Knight, or any thing else that will please you. At these words Sir Bevis's heart began to melt, and being overjoyed, he took her in his Arms and kissed her : The two Knights that Bevis redeemed from Brandmond, hearing what words passed between Bevis and Josian, told to the King, which made him mad with Bevis ; so to bring Bevis to his end, the King wrote Letters to Brandmond, to put Bevis to death, who was the bearer of the Letters. Where I will leave him, and speake a little of Bevis's Uncle, Sir Sabere, who was much grieved for Bevis, and sent his Son Terry in search for him ; who travelled many Heathen Lands yet could not find out Bevis ; but he swore never to see England again, if he found him not.

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CHAP. VI.

How *Bevis* went on his Journey with Letters from King *Ermine* to King *Brandmond*, which concerned his own life, and how he fought with the Sarazens in *Damas*, and how he pulled down the Idols, and how they put him in Prison, and what after befell.

Then took *Bevis* his Letters, and posted away towards the the Land of Pavy, and as he rode, he saw a Palmer, to whom he said, What Country-man are you, good Palmer? I am an English-man, said the Palmer, and I seek for one I cannot find: what is his Name, said *Bevis*? His name is *Bevis* said the Palmer, my Fathers Brothers Son: I have heard of his Name, qu. he, put I do not know him: I would I could find him said the Palmer; he is about these Countries, said he; So after some discourse, they parted; for *Bevis*, would not make himself known, but away rode he to *Damas* City, where the King did live, which was a most stately place: entering into the streets, the he thens were sacrificing to their Gods, which was odious for him to behold: What Devil do you serve here, said *Bevis*? and ran to the God Mahound, and pulled him down from the Altar, and threw him into the Channel: Then all the Sarazens fought with *Bevis*, but he plaid his part so valiantly, that he made the streets to run down with blood: for he laid about him so fast, that there was full two hundred Sarazens killed that bout: then some went to the King and told him all that was befell to the God Mahound, and how many were killed: the King all in a rage, wroge by Mahound, Apoline, and Terganant, he should dye for his bold attempt, and as the King was going to see what he should be that had done this Outrage, *Bevis* met him at the Gate of his Pallace, and seeing the King, fell down on his knees, and delivered his message: The King took the Letters, and did read them, and they proved Treason against poor *Bevis*; to this effect they were; That King *Brandmond* should put *Bevis* to death: Thus *Ermine* betrayed him that before had kept him from destruction: *Bevis* seeing what he must trust to, with manly courage began to make another great laugh.

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ter among them, four or five at every blow he brought to the ground he struck such heavy strokes, that his Sword broke, and after with his fists brought to the ground many Sarazens more: at last the multitude overcome him, bound his hands that he could not stir: Alas, said Bevis, let me not dye a Dogs death but give me an hoyle and armour, & a good sword, and I will fight against an hundred thousand of you, so I dye fairly in the field, I care not: but all cryed out against him, and said, hang him: others said burn him, some said starve him to death: then helpake the King: he shall be deboured by the two Dragons in the Dungeon; with that they were all contented so in the Dungeon was he cast, but they untied his hands by good fortune: in the Dungeon he found the Truncheon of a Spear: the Dragons seeing a Prey, made at him very strongly, but he dispatched them both, and then he was at rest a while.

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C H A P. VII.

How *Josian* demanded of her Father what was become of *Bevis*.

Father, said *Josian*, where is *Sir Bevis*? he replied, he is gone to his Country. At this time came *King Jour*, intending for to wed *Josian*, which he obtained. And *Ermine* gave *Jour Arundel* and *Morglay*, which belonged to *Bevis*. This *Josian* no way could avoid: Now all this time *Bevis* was in Prison, and the keepers would go down to see him, being he had been there the term of seven years, and fed with nothing but Bran and Water, they thought he was wondrous feeble, but he was so strong, that he killed them both, being midnight, and so got out clear, and took a Steed, and away he rode: now when he was gone, they quickly followed, and *Sir Grandere* mounted on *Trunchisile*, overtok him: with that *Bevis* turned about, and smote *Grandere* on the Head: which blow clove him asunder down to the Girdle; then *Bevis* leapt off his Steed, and got upon *Trunchisile*; then he rode forward again. By this time many thousands of Sarazens were in pursuit after him, & followed him so close, that he was forced on *Trunchisile* back to swim over the River; and when he was come to Land, with

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tery hunger he was ready to faint; and as he rid along, he saw a Castle, where a great ugly Gyant lived that was Sir Grandere's Brother; thither he hied and bounced at the Gate which roused the Gyant out of a Dream, and coming out, said, How now fellow? what art thou weary of thy life? How camest thou by Trunchisile my Brothers Steed? Why, said Bevis, as I served thy Brother, so Ile serve thee presently: I come for food, and that Ile have before I go: Wilt thou so, quoth the Gyant? by Apoline I swear, thou shalt win it before thou hast it; I, I, said Sir Bevis, Ile dine at thy Castle, and thou shalt sup with the Devil: Shall I so, quoth he? and up with a mighty Bar of Iron, and struck at him, which blow he wonderfully mist, but it beat out Trunchisile's hains: Bevis seeing that, nimbly leapt out of Saddle, and laid upon the Gyant most stoutly: the Gyant finding that he was very strong, with a violent force he struck a Dart into his shoulder; then, in the heat of blood, he made a full blow at the Gyant, which parted his head from his Body: then into the Castell went Bevis, and forced the Gyants Wife to taste both meat and drinke, and he fed after her: then into the Stable he went, and took a goodly Horse, and rode away from thence to find out fair Josian, whom he dearly loved: and it happened that he met with a poor Palmer, to whom he said, Who liberty in yonder Castle? Harry, quoth the Palmer, there dwelleth King Jour that married the fair Lady Josian; and is the Queen living, said he? Yes, sir Knight, said the poor Palmer: I will give thee my Steed for thy Meed, said he, With all my heart; replied the Palmer, and thank you too: then he leaped off his back, and gave his Steed to the Palmer, and so put on the Palmers Meed, then he took his way to the Castle, where he found abundance of joys more than he lookt for but at the first, Josian did not know him, yet still he and she talked, that he got so far into Josians favour, that she gave him leave to see Arundel, and then she knew Sir Bevis: for his Steed Arundel hearing him speak, broke seven Chains asunder, and neighed: then Josian took Bevis aside into her Garden, and there they both concluded to be gone: Boniface her Chamberlain was a trusty friend unto her, and bowed to further their Journey, he would do his best; then said Josian to Bevis, My Lord, you shall stay about my Castle a while, and you shall

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say to the King that you came from Jury, and that King Bradwin is besieged by the King of Syrack, and how he is like to lose his Kingdom: In the mean time King Jour came home, and Bevis told him all that Josian bid him: Why sent he not to me, said the King: he did send, replied he, but his Messengers were taken by Syrack: then Jour chose by Mahound, he would revenge his Brothers wrong: so with all speed he raised an Army, and went to help his Brother, and left Sir Grassy to rule in his stead till his return; King Jour being gone, they gave Sir Grassy a sleepy drink, which made him lye like one that was dead, for four and forty hours: in the mean time, Bevis, Josian, and Boniface, got great store of Poneys, and costly Jewels, and then away they came for England: and as these three travelled, they were so hard pursued by Sir Grassy, that they were forced to take for their succour a Cave for Helter; so there they stayed all one night: Next morning Sir Bevis went out to kill some beast or other to dress for Josian, for he was hungry: The while Bevis was abroad, there came into the Cave two dreadful Lions, which slew poor Boniface and eat him; whilst Josian trembling with fear, the Lions went to her, and laid their heads in her Lap: By this time Bevis returned to the Cave, & seeing the blood and bones of Boniface, wondered at it, and entering the Cave, Josian said, good Bevis be careful, for here is two Lions in the Cave with me, and they have slain Boniface and eaten him: Bevis answered, art thou alive? by this I know thou art a pure Maid. Josian replied, I will hold the one whilst thou kill the other; Nay, said he, let them both come together; then Josian set them at liberty, and they came full drive at him, but he with his good Morglay, slew them both presently, and so the quarrel was ended. Then Bevis & Josian refreshed themselves and rode onward on their Journey, and as they went, there met them Ascapart, an ugly Giant, who was thirty foot in length, and a foot between his Eye-brows, he was hilled like a Swine, and his blobber lips hung a one side; and meeting, Ascapart said, stand, thee and thy Lady must along with me; Not so, said Bevis, thou shalt have but one of us, for I will try my Manhood with thee first, and if you get the day, take it and welcome; Then Josian held Arundel whilst he fought with Ascapart; the fight continued a long time, yet Bevis avoiding his heavy blows, gave Ascapart
many

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many a wound, made him roar extremely: and being mad, he laid at him with his cruel Bat, thinking for to beat out his Brains, but with that stroke his foot slipt, and down he fell; Bevis would have smote it his head, but Josian being pittiful, said; Do not so, let him go with us: Lady, said Bevis, he may betray us: Be all my Gods, said Ascapart, I swear if thou wilt save my life, I will be true to thee and thy Lady, and do you what service I can? Then rise and live, said Bevis: So Bevis and Josian mounted Arundel, and away they rode, with Ascapart by their side, till they came to the Sea, where they found many Sarazens and a Ship bound for Christendom, but the Sarazens would not ferry them to the Ship; then Bevis and Ascapart made great laughter among them, and killed a hundance of them: then said Ascapart let me alone, I will carry you to the Ship, Horse and all: so he took the horse under his Arm, with Bevis and Josian and waded to the Ship, where they had welcome, and so sailed into the Land of Colen, where dwelt a Bishop that was Bevis's Kinsman, who had them very welcome; and after much discourse, the Bishop said; What Country Lady is this? Bevis answered the King of Almonies Daughter, and she would become a Christian for my sake. And what ill-favoured Lubber is this, said the Bishop? He is my Page, said he, and Josian and he would fain be christened; this Lubber is too big to be carried by a Midwife to the Font, said the Bishop; that is true quoth Sir Bevis. But in the end Josian was christened by the Bishop, and Ascapart had a Font made on purpose to be christened in that was very large; but when he came to be christened, Out Devil, quoth Ascapart, thou wilt wench me, I am too big to be christened by thee, and leapt over the Font, and away he went.

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C H A P. VIII.

How Bevis slew a dreadful Dragon, and what after chanced.



BEvis being in bed, heard a knigha cry, *I Rot, I Rot*, at which
lad noise Bevis wondred : and the next morning he asked what
was the cause of that noise : He was a knight, said they, that com-
ing through the street the Dragon met with and cast her Venome
upon him, whereof he rotted and dyed, *where is that Dragon ?*
said Bevis, *Not far from this place*, said they. Then Bevis
called Ascapart to go with him, and Ascapart was very willing.
So together they went, and when they came near the place where
the Dragon was, they heard the dreadfulest yell that ever was :
What Devil is that, quoth Ascapart, *It is the Dragon*,
said Bevis : *We shall see him anon*. *Ile go no further*, said As-
capart, *if she roars so loud before we come to her, what will she*
do when we fight with her ? *Fear not*, said Bevis, *we will teach*
her how to hold her Tongue, *Marry, teach her thy self*, said
Ascapart,

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Ascapart, for I will go back again : then farewell, said Bevis, I will go my self ; so forward went Bevis, & backward went Ascapart, Bevis coming near her Den, she made forth, but never was such a Dragon seen in the world as this was, from her Head to Tail was full forty foot, her Scales glittered as bright as Silver, and hard as Flint ; have-at thy Devils face, said Bevis and out he drew his good Morglay, (on the Dragon laid, but her Scales was so hard, his Sword cry'd twang, & never entered : then the Dragon struck Bevis to the ground, & up he got again : but she came on so fiercely that Bevis went back, & by chance fell into a Well, else the Dragon had destroy'd him ; it seems the Well was holy water, & no venom might come within seven foot of it : there Bevis refreshed himself, & drank of the Water ; and recovering his strength, to the Dragon he went again to have the other bout ; but the Dragon assailed him so sore that Bevis was afraid he should have lost his life, yet with a balliant heart he stood to her stoutly : the Dragon finding him so strong bulke a Gallon of her Venome upon him, which fell'd him dead to the ground, & his Armour burst all to pieces : the Dragon seeing he lay so still, she turned him with her tail, that he tumbled into the Well, and the water thereof expelled the Venome, and made himself safe and sound again ; then he was a joyful man, and set upon the Dragon again : and when they had fought a long time, the Dragon would have been gone, and thinking to raise her self, li'ed up her wings : Have-at thee now, said Bevis ; and with one sound blow hitting her under the wing, pierced her to the heart ; with that she gave such a cry, which made the earth tremble ; she being dead, Bevis beheaded her, and put it upon his spear, and so rode home : & when the people saw him coming, they gave a great shout, as at a Kings Coronation, & all the bells in the Town did ring, and all manner of Quick play'd before Bevis, as he rode through the Town, where with great Joy his Uncle received him.

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CHAP. IX.

How *Bevis* raised an Army against *Sir Murdure*.

NOW *Bevis* was willing to give over *Trabel*, and see to get his own Inheritance; he therefore got an hundred Gallant Souldiers of his Uncle, and sailed into England, and landed near unto Southampton, and sent a Knight unto *Sir Murdure*, to tell him, that a Knight of *Almain*, hearing of his troubles, was come to aid and assist him against *Sir Sabere*: the Knight having told his Message, *Sir Murdure* desired to see him: *Bevis* knowing that, went to the Castle; *Sir Murdure* and his wife bid him very welcome, and then desired to know his Name; my Name is *Gerrard*, said *Bevis*, and I hearing of these Matters, have brought over a hundred chosen men, to help to maintain your right: I give you thanks, said *Sir Murdure*; but you must furnish us with Horse and Arms (quoth *Bevis*): I, and of the best I have top, for every man shall chuse his own Steed and Arms, said *Sir Murdure*: Then bade at *Sir Sabere*, said *Bevis*: so to Supper they went, and after Supper, *Sir Murdure*, to make his matter good, told *Bevis*, that the Castle was once another Knights that was his *Predecessor*: and said he by misfortune was slain: Had he never a Child by his Lady? Yes, said *Sir Murdure*: Is he dead or living, said *Bevis*? I know not, quoth he, when he was young he sold me his Castle, and all his Inheritance, and spent the Money, and then went beyond Sea, and what is become of him I cannot tell: If he were such a one, said *Bevis*, it is no matter where he is. So after many several Discourses of Foreign Countries, to bed they went, and then *Bevis* & his men were furnished with all things fitting for service. Ships being prepared for that purpose, they took their leaves of *Sir Murdure* and his Lady for that time, and sailed to the Isle of *Wight*, where *Sir Sabere* dwelt.

Sir Bevis of Southampton.



CHAP. X.

How a Knight Wedded fair *Josian* in *Coler*, against her Will,
and what after befell.



Josian all this while was in *Colen* with *Ascapart*; In that
Country lived a Knight called the Earl of *Milo*, who loved
Josian, but she would not yield unto his will; so take her by
force he durst not, for fear of *Ascapart*: Therefore he wrote
letters in the Name of *Sir Bevis*, that *Ascapart* should come
to him: when he had done, he sent the letters to *Josian*, and
she received them as from *Sir Bevis*: and then reading them,

The Gallant History of

he was very glad to hear from her dearest friend : so she gave the Bearer a great reward & sent Ascapart with him, not thinking how she was betray'd : when as they came to the Castle, Ascapart was put in a Dungeon, instead of seeing his Master : then the lustful Earl went to Josian, & told her how he had served her, & Ascapart was fast in the Castle : Hast thou served me so : said she think not hereby ever to have thy will on me : Then the villian would have ravished her, but she (rather than suffer Rape) yielded to marry him : Then he was very joyful, & sent for all the Kts. & Gentlemen, & the next day was married to Josian : & after great feasting at night to bed he went, & all his valiant Kts. was in the Chamber with him : then Josian (to have opportunity) pray'd him to send all the company away, which was performed presently ; the Curtains being close about the Bed, he made a Roole, & as he sat by the bed-side, she slipping it over his head strangl'd him, & hung him over a beam : In the morning his friends came to give him joy ; Josian said, look where he hangs : then they were all amazed, yet they took Josian & carried her to the Stake to be burned. In the mean time Ascapart broke out of the Castle, & got into a Fisher-boat, then rowing himself to Land, he met with Bevis, & told all that had happened : so they both went, & found Josian at a Stake to be burned ; where they fought courageously, & released Josian, & then they went all three to Sir Sabere, where they were Royally entertained.



CHAP. VI.

How Bevis and Sir Sabere raised Arms against Murther, with other things that happen'd.

Then Bevis sent word to Sir Murther, That he thanked him for his Arms, and bad him prepare for Battle : So Murther and his host came to the Isle of Wight, where Bevis met with him, and betwixen them was a bloody Battel : Sir Sabere, Bevis, and Ascapart, made such havock with them, that they slew all that came near them; and Ascapart took Sir Murther and carried him to the

Sir Bevis of Southampton.

the Castle, & put him in a Cauldron of boyling Pitch and Syth-
stone; the Almain Army fled, and the King of England with his
Forces run away. Sir Murdure's Lady seeing this, threw her self



down from the Castle and broke her neck: then Bevis gave rich
Giftes to the soldiers, and was placed in Southampton: then he
married Josian, & after wards went to do homage to King Edgar,
who was exceeding joyfull to see Bevis, & made him Lord Marshal
of England: the King's son would have bought Arundel, but Bevis
would not sell him for gold nor silver: then the Prince would take
him by force; but coming into the Stable, Arundel beat out his
Brains: The King hearing this, was in wrath with Bevis, and
swore he should dye: but at last it was concluded, he should only be
banished the Lynde: so Bevis surrendered up all his whole Estate to
Sir Sabere, and took Josian, Terry, and Ascapart along with him.

AND

The Gallant History of

And as they went Josian fell in labor; then were they in a Forrest, and Josian had them walk away till she was delivred: so Terry & Bevis went together, and Ascapart went another way; and when she was delivred, Ascapart came to Josian, and carried her away: Bevis and Terry came and found two Children, but not the mother, so Bevis took the Infants, naming the eldest Guy, and the younger Miles, and went his way, and in his journey met accidentally with a Forester & a Fisherman, whom with good store of Gold he hired to take his Children to Nurce, & engaged them at seven years end to bring them to one Bevis of Hampton, and they should be rewarded to their desires: they took the Infants and the Gold, promising to perform all things accordingly; and so Bevis and his Wome parted: but Sabere, and twelve Knights with him, followed Ascapart, in Palmers weeds, and overtook him near the City of Mambrecht, fought with him, and slew him on the place. Thus he redeemed faire Josian, to her great joy, and carrying her to his Inn, there he met with Sir Bevis and Terry; at which time, to compleat their happiness, the Forester and the Fisherman brought Bevis's two Wome, who thanking them both for their care, gave them great Riches, and caused them to be made Knights: soon after this, there began a fierce War between King Jour of Mambrecht, and Ermine King of Armony, for Josians sake; whereupon Bevis went to the aid of Ermine, and took King Jour Prisoner, for whose Ransome he had Twenty Tun of Gold, and three hundred white Horses.

King Ermine was so highly affected with this service, that for Bevis his sake he turned Christian, and a little before his decess he crowned Guy King of Armony, and Miles he made a Knight, where they lived a space in great happiness & felicity; but King Jour bearing an inward grudge, or insatiable malice against Bevis he once more resolved to try the fortune of War with him; so he raised a great Army of Heathenish Saracens, who with undaunted Courage assailed Bevis in Armony, being led on by King Jour himself in person: these charged not so gallantly, but they were repulsed as bravely, & in short time totally routed by the unconquerable power of our English Knights. In this skirmish Sir Bevis meeting King Jour, had a single combat with him, in which fight

Sir Bevis of Southampton.

after many bloody strokes on both sides, King Iour was slain, & his Army was wholly vanquished: Bevis then putting on the Armour of R. Iour, rode to the City of Mambrant, where he was received and welcomed home by the people, instead of their King: he no sooner got possession of the place, but he made them all become his Servants, and renounce their false Gods, and turn Christians, and by this means his fair Lady Josian was the second time at Mambrant.



CHAP. XII.

Containing the Conclusion of the History.

While Sabere continued thus with Bevis, tidings came unto him, that his wife was disinherited by Edger King of England; whereupon he, with Bevis, Josian, and his two Sons Guy and Miles, went to London with a great Army, and fought against King Edgar, slew two thousand of his Soldiers for the wrong he had done unto him, and to Sabere, and then he returned to Southampton, where King Edgar sent unto him for a party, and in the conclusion made a peace with him, and agreed to marry his eldest Daughter unto Miles (Bevis's Son) whom at that time also he made Earl of Cornwall; the Wedding being solemnized with great joy, and variety of Courteous Recreations. Sir Bevis, with Josian and Guy his eldest Son, returned to their several homes. After this, Bevis lived in Mambrant, and then Josian fell sick, who was accompanied by her beloved Husband, both in Sicknes and in Death: They dyed both in one day, and were solemnly Interred in one Grave by Guy their Son, who raised a stately Tomb over them, to the everlasting Memory of so Gallant a Knight, and his most Royal Constant Lady.

So I conclude his Famous Actions here Pen'd;
For Time and Death brings all things to an

E N D.





THE GALLANT
HISTORY
OF THE
Life and Death
Of that most Noble Knight, SIR
BEVIS
OF
Southampton.

Wherein is contained much Variety of Pleasant and Delightful
Reading.



Printed by A. M. for J. Deacon, at the Angel in Guilt-spur-Street
without Newgate.

HISTORY

of the

BEVERLY

Massachusetts





The Gallant
HISTORY
 OF
Bevis of Southampton

CHAP. I.

Of the Birth of Bevis, and of the Death of his Father.

IN the Reign of Edgar, King of England, there was a most Renowned Knight, whose Name was Sir Guy, the Earl of Southampton, whose Deeds did exceed all the Valiant Knights in this Kingdom; who, thirsting after Fame, betook himself to Travel: And first he Sailed into France, Flanders, Almain, Brabant, Sicily, Denmark, Calice, Gascoine, Hungaria, Spain, Eastland, Norway, Picardy, Scotland, Lombardy, Wales: At these Parts he travelled in his Youth, and Conquered all his Opposers with his Unmaster'd Strength, and Victorious hand, fighting under the Banner of Christ, against all Mischlanders whatsoever they were. Thus spending the best part of his Strength for the Glory of Christ, and the honour of his Country, he then returned into England again: King Edgar hearing that

that Sir Guy was returned, sent a Messenger for him presently to do him honour for the valiant Deeds that he had done: Sir Guy withall spake Rode to the King, by whom he was Royally entertained, & all his Nobles; and after great feasting, the King, according to Sir Guy's desire, made him high Steward of England: then Sir Guy would betake him to a Wife, and the King of Scotland having a fair Daughter, Sir Guy made suit unto her: But the Emperors brother of Almain was a Suitor unto her likewise, and she loved Sir Mordure better than she loved Sir Guy: but the King, her Father, knowing Sir Guy to be a most Noble Peer of England, he gave his Daughter to him in Marriage: Yet still she affected Mordure best; but Guy not knowing her hearted to him, returned with great Pomp into England, with his deceitful Lady. Not long after this he took a Son by her, and they name him Bevis: At the Birth of his Child was exceeding Joy and Triumph, with many Banquettings; then Sir Guy was content his Ladies heart was firmly linked to him, with the never-breaking Bands of Love; but he good Knight was much troubled; for he (like Janus) bore a double face, one for Sir Guy, which frowned, but the other, which was for Sir Mordure, smiled; for his wife perceiving he was old, brook her self to love Sir Mordure, and called a Servant to her, whom she might well trust, and said: Thou must sail into Almain with speed, and keep my secrets, and say unto Sir Mordure the Emperors Brother, that I greet him kindly, and that I do desire him to provide a great company of Knights and Gentlemen to come along with him into England, with all speed, and meet my Husband, which is hateful to me to look on, and tell him, that I will send Sir Guy into my Forrest, purposely to be slain by Sir Mordure; and then tell him I am his: Bid him perform this and live with me; the time he shall meet Sir Guy, shall be on the first of May. The message being delivered, Sir Mordure was resolved to perform what she had commanded: So on the first of May she feigned her self very sick and weak, and called for her Husband, and said unto him, That she would desire him to go into the Forrest, and slay a Wild beast for her to eat. This was the Knight not thinking of her treachery, took a Steed, gave a Swoon about him, and with a Spear in his hand, Rode to the Forrest with speed.

By this time Sir Mordure and his Company was entered the next morning Sir Guy said, Traytor, for the Love I bear to thy Lady, thou shalt quickly lose thy life, and after this, I'll slay thy Son; for why, thy wife belongs to me. Which that Sir Guy let come to his Horse, and rode with such violence against Sir Mordure, that he threw him out of his saddle: Then Sir Mordure thinking he should have been slain, cried out to his Followers, who came presently and set upon Sir Guy, and swore he should lose his Life, then Sir Guy leaped out to fight with Sir Mordure hand to hand, and then if he lost his life, he would forgive them all, but they would not grant his Request, but slew him presently, and cut off his Head, and sent it to his Lady, who received it joyfully, and gave the Messenger a great Reward; this Treachery being accomplished, Sir Mordure made halt unto the Castle of Sir Guy, and there was Royally received of Sir Guy's Mother, where for a while I leave them to their pleasures, and now come to speak of Young Bevis.

C H A P. 2.

How Bevis kept sheep: And how he went to his Father's House, and slew the Porter of the Gate, and many other things that happened.

BEVIS hearing how lately his Father was killed, ran to his Mother, and vowed if ever he came to Age, that he would be revenged on her, and on that base Traytor, Sir Mordure. Which that his Mother gave her Son a box on the Ear, which killed her Bevis to the ground: Sir Sabare, being Brother to Sir Guy, was very sorrowful for the death of his Brother; and seeing his People so misused, caught him up in his Arms, and carried him away: His mother sent presently after Sir Sabare, privately to murder her Son Bevis. Sir Sabare said he would, & dyed Bevis in old Cloath,

Charles, & sent him to keep his sheep: So Bevis went to the top of a Hill near his Father's Castle, where his Uncle's sheep were. In the mean time Sir Sabere killed a Pig, and kept the Carments of the Child in the blood thereof; now Bevis all this while sat weeping upon the Hill, but hearing Trumpets sounding at his Father's Castle, and much Melody for joy that his Mother had obtained her deliver. Bevis took off pace of keeping sheep, and ran with his Shepherds stand on his shoulder to the Castle, and knocking at the Gate, the Porter denied him entrance: Which that young Bevis with his crow gave him such a bang on the crown, which fell to the Porter to the Earth; then into the Hall he went, where Sir Mordure sat at Table with his Mother, & many Knights and Ladies (though all in Rage he shewed them of what house he came on) & with a violent blow, struck Sir Mordure under the Table, and swore if it had not been against Nature, he would send his Mother after his own Father. Which that all the Knights in the Hall sought to lay hands on him, but Bevis forced his way through the midst of them, and got clear away: Sir Sabere meeting Bevis running from the Castle, said, Where hast thou been? Bevis answered, At my Fathers Castle, where I slew the Porter of the Gate, and knockt my Father under the Table, and was about to kill my Mother, but that Nature taught me the Contrary: Alas, said his Uncle, thou hast betrayed us both, yet once more will I save thee. The Mother of Bevis (like a woman Distracted of her wits) came running to her brother in great haste, and said: What hast thou not slain that young Villain? Madam, quoth he, he is dead: Villain, said she, thou lyest, if thou dost not make him away the sooner, it shall cost thy life, and his both: Madam, said he, behold his Cloaths dipped in blood: Bevis, hearing her speeches, kept out of the Chamber, and was ready to rear her in pieces; but he escaped out of his hands by the help of her brother; then she entreated Sir Sabere and another Knight to cast Bevis into the sea and drown him, which they did content unto, to pacifie her wrath.

C H A P. 3.

Now Bevis was sold unto the Danings, and carried over the Sea into Armony, and presented to King Crimine.

AND going to the Sea-side, they met with Merchantes of Armony. Sir Sabere told Bevis to them; the Merchantes son arrived in Armony, and then presented Bevis unto the King; the King gave them many thanks, and swore by his God Mahound, he never saw such a sweete boy in all his life: Then the King asked him where he was born? In England, said Bevis. Whose Son wast thou there? said the King, Sir Guy's of Southampton, quoth Bevis: I have heard much talk of thy Father, said the King, and by Report he was a Valient Knight as ever yet drew Sword: I have but one Fair Daughter (said the King) and if thou wilt forsake thy GOD, and serve Apoline our God, thou shalt have my Daughter to Wife, and enjoy my Kingdom after me. Not so, my Lord (said Bevis) for all the beauties in the world I would not deny my Creator. Then (said the King) wilt thou be my Chamberlain? And when I find thy desert, I'll dub thee a Knight, and thou shalt bear my Standard in the Field against my Foes. What you please to command me my Lord, said he, save the denying of my God, I will do. Bevis was so beloved of the King, that none durst speak against him; nay, Josian the King's Daughter was in love with him. As it chanced on Christmas-day, Bevis rode into the field to recreate himself, and meeting with threSCORE Sarazens, one of them asked him what day it was? Bevis answered, I know not, for I was not seven years old when I came out of my own Country. Then, said the Sarazens, upon this day thy God was born, and wilt thou not honour thy God on his birth-day. Yes, said Bevis, if I was as well Armed as my Father was, you should know that I would honour this day better than ever you honoured your God Apoline. With that they all run upon him, thinking to kill him presently; but Bevis having no Weapon, got one of their Swords away; & with the same made their heads to run home without their Riders; for he slew and wounded all the Sarazens. The King hearing what Bevis had done against his god Apoline, & where

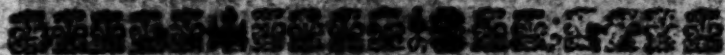
he should dye; then Josian down on her knees, and desired her Father that Bevis might live; which the King granted: Then Josian went to Bevis and kissed him, and dressed his wounds, and then he brought him to the King her father; who, when he saw Bevis so wounded, the tears ran down his Cheeks, and then he prayed Josian to do the best he could to Cure his wounds, which he performed in a little space, so Bevis grew as sound as ever he was.

CHAP. 4.

How Bevis one Morning slew a mighty Wild Bear in the Forrest.

WHEN that Country there was a great forest, and with in the same there was a mighty wild Bear, that devoured Man, Woman, and Child; Bevis hearing of him, one Morning early he saddled his Steed, and took a good Sword by his side, and rode to the forest to try a Combat with this wild Bear: And Riding so and so, it was his luck to find the Cave where this wild Bear was, and as he rode his Steed to the tree, out came the Bear, and so assailed Bevis, that he was fain to shrink back: Then Bevis recotering ground, made at him with a spear, and burst it all in pieces; then he drew out his sword, and laid many a heavy blow upon the Beares hinder, but could not make any entrance into the flesh; and at last by good fortune the Bear came at him with an open mouth, and Bevis having that advantage, without violent blow cut his upper Jaw asunder; at which the Bear gave such a cry, as would have frighted a thousand men, had they been in the hearing of it: Then into his throat Bevis thrust his sword, and killed him outright, and with much ado cut off his head, and stuck it upon the Tranchion of his Spear, and so mounted himself upon his Steed, and as he was Riding homeward, twelve Foresters set upon him to take the Beares head away, that they might get the vengeance which Bevis had conveyed his life for: Now indeed Bevis was unprohibited; so he (with very joy that he had slain the Bear) left his sword behind him; but yet he made a pretty gift with them, for he killed

killed nine of them, and the other three ran away; and then Bevis had free way to ride to the Court without any hindrance. There was many spectators to behold Bevis with the Boars Head, among which company was fair Josian, beholding Bevis with great Joy; and Bevis seeing Josian smile, began to ride majestically towards her, and entered the Court, left Josian had him welcome, & brought him to the King: the King then presented the boars head, the King received it, and gave Bevis many thanks, and chose by Apolline, for saying the deed he would do him great Honour.



CHAP. 3.

How Bevis was made a Knight, and a General of twenty Thousand Men, to go against Brandmont.

ABOUT this time King Brandmont sent an Ambassador unto King Ermine, to have fair Josian to his Wife, or else he would beat him out of his Country: When Ermine assembled all his Nobles and Barons together, to advise what to do, some said it was better to let Josian go, rather than to hazard the loss of his Crown and Kingdom: Josian knowing their Resolution, spoke to her Father in this manner: Father (said she) if you will be pleased to make Bevis General over an Host of men, he would maintain your right, and conquer your Foes. The King hearing of his Daughters words, sent for Bevis and made him a Knight, and chose out twenty thousand men to go under Sir Bevis's command: When Josian girded on his Armour, & gave him a Sword called Morglay; then he brought him a Steed called Arndel; so Sir Bevis being mounted, Josian blessed him well, and smiled at him, & Bevis smiled on her again; and then taking her, away he rode with all his Host against Brandmont and his Host: Brandmont seeing Bevis's Army to be no more, laughed at them: Host thou laugh, said Bevis? I'll make thee curse the time that ever thou camest hither. Then sitting his Golden Spurs to his Steed, he ran full dyke at Brandmont, that Brandmont thought sure he should have dyed at that hour, and

feeling Radisson was slain, his heart began to faint: The Armes
both did fight courageously, and many men were lost on both sides:
Then Brandmond took two of Devin's Knights Prisoners, but
Devin put with them, and killed Brandmond to the ground, whole
and all, and took him Prisoner: He said, said Devin, I'll have you
to Johan: Have up Life, cryed Brandmond, and have me whither
thou wilt: So Devin returned with great Allegry, & was Royally
entertained of the King, and then Johanneke set mind to Lewis,
quoth she, O Mayhould, I would be to be thy Love: So to La-
dy, said Devin, I'll wed no Heathenness; which words he took ve-
ry scornfully; Devin perceiving his anger, said, I am wiser, for
I shall never let you again, and so he left her, and went to his
Chamber; then Johans heart began to throb, and what to do she
knew not; at last she sent two Knights into him, to desire him to
come unto her, but Devin would not; then she went her self, and
said, My Lord, I would intreat you not to leave me now, but grant
me that I shall be thy Wife, and I'll do whatsoever thou wilt have
me to do, I'll forsake my Gods, and turn a Christian for your
sake, Sir Knight, or any thing else that will please you. At these
words her Devin's heart began to melt, and being overcome, he
took her in his Arms and kissed her: The two Knights that Devin
redeemed from Brandmond, hearing what words passed between
Devin and Johan, told to the King, which made him mad with De-
vin, so to bring Devin to his end, the King wrote Letters to Brand-
mond to put Devin to Death, who was the Sister of the Lemmy,
where I will leave him, and I give a little of Devin's Uncle, Sir
Sabere, who was much grieved for Devin, and sent his Son Terry
in search for him, who travelled many Heathen Lands, yet could
not find our Devin; but he swore never to see England again, if he
found him not.

CHAP. 6.

How Bevis went on his Journey with Letters from King Germaine, to King Brandmont, which concerned his own life, and how he fought with the Sarazens in Damas, and how he pulled down the Idols, and how they put him in Prison, and what after befell.

Then took Bevis his Letters, and posted away towards the Land of Pavy, and as he rode, he saw a Palmer, to whom he said: What Countryman art thou good Palmer? I am an Englishman, said the Palmer, and look for one I cannot find: What is his Name? (said Bevis) his Name is Bevis, said the Palmer, my Father's Brothers Son: I have heard of his Name, quoth he, but I do not know him: I would I could find him, said the Palmer: He is about these Countreies, said he: So after some discourse they parted; for Bevis would not make himself known, but staid some he to Damas City, where the King did live, which was a very busy Place: And entering into the streets, the Sarazens were sacrificing to their Gods, which was odious for him to behold: What Devil do you serve here? said Bevis, and run to the God Mahound, and pulled him down from the Altar, and threw him into the Channel: Then all the Sarazens fought with Bevis, but he slayd his party so suddenly, that he made the Crooked men down with blood: For he slayd about him to kill, that there was full two hundred Sarazens killed that hour: Then some went to the King and told him all that was befall to the God Mahound, and how many were killed: the King all in a Rage, swoie by Mahound, Apollonius and Ferganah, he should see for his bold attempt, and as the King was going to see what he should be that had done this outrage, Bevis met him at the Gate of his Palace, and seeing the King, fell down on his knees, and delivered his message: The King took the Letters and did read them, and they proved Treason against poor Bevis; so this after they were: That King Brandmont should put Bevis to death: That Germaine betrayed him that before had kept him from destruction: Bevis seeing what he must needs do, with many sorrows began to make another great laugh:

ter among them, four of the at every blow he brought in the ground, he struck such heavy strokes that his sword broke, and after with his fists brought to the ground fifty Sarazens more: At last the multitude overcame him, and bound his hands that he could not stir. Alas, said Bevis, let me not dye a Dogs death, but give me an horse and armor, & a good sword, and I will fight against an hundred thousand of you, so I dye fairly in the field I care not; but all cryed out against him, and said hang him otherwise, turn him, some said, starve him to death: Then bespake the King; He shall be honoured by the two Dragons in the Dungeon: with that they were all contented; so in the Dungeon was he cast, but they untyed his hands by good consure: In the Dungeon he found the Trunchion of a Spear: The Dragons seeing a prey, made at him very strongly; but he dispatche them both, and then he was at rest a while.

CHAP. 7th

How Johan demanded of her Father what was become of Bevis.

Father, said Johan, where is sir Bevis? He replied, he is gone to his Country. At this time came King Iour, intending for to wed Johan, which he obtained. And Ermine gave him Arundel and Morghay, which belonged to Bevis. This Johan was too could advise: Now all this time Bevis was in Prison, and the Keepers would go down to see him, being he had been there the term of seven years, and did with nothing but Food and Water, they thought he was wonton and feeble, but he was so strong, that he killed them both, being midnight, and so got out alone, and took a herd, and was he rode: Now when he was gone, they quickly followed, and Sir Grandore mounted on Trunchise, overtook him: Much they both talked about, and smote Grandore on the head, which blowe close turn in under down to the Chible; then Bevis leapt off his herd, and got upon Trunchise; spurs he gave to each again: By this time many thousands of Sarazens were in pursuit after him, & followed him so close, that he was forced, on Trunchise back, to cutt off the Riders; and when he was come to Land, with

very hungry he was ready to faint; and as he ran along, he saw a
 Cattle, where a great ugly Crane stood that was his Granfather's
 Brother; thither he ran, and bounc'd at the Gate, which cou'd
 the Crane out of a dream, and coming out, said, How now fel-
 low? What art thou weary of the life? How camest thou by
 Truncation my brother's death? Alas, said Bevis, as I seek'd
 thy brother, so I'll seek thee presently: I come for food, and that
 I'll have he said: I go: wilt thou be, quoth he? And? By my life
 I would, thou wilt win it before thou hast it; I, I, said Sir
 Bevis, I'll dine at thy Cattle, and thou shalt sup with the Devil;
 shalt thou, quoth he, and up with a mighty bar of Iron, and knock
 at him, which was he wonderfully milt, but it beat our Trunkeli-
 sh's haines: Bevis seeing that, nimbly leapt out of his saddle, and
 laid upon the Crane most bravely: The Crane finding that he was
 very strong, with a violent force he struck a dart into his shoulder;
 then, in the heat of blood, he made a full blow at the Crane, which
 parted his head from his body: Then into the Cattle went Bevis,
 and to eat the Crane's flesh he said both Bevis and Drink, & he fed
 after her: Then into the stable he went, and took a goodly horse,
 and rode away from thence to find out fair Johan, whom he dearly
 loved: And it happened, that he met with a good Palmer, to whom
 he said, Alas, liberty in prison Cattle? Quoth, quoth the Pal-
 mer, thou dwellest King John, that married the fair Lady Johan;
 and is the Queen living, said he? Yes, Sir Knight, said the good
 Palmer: I will give thee my horse for thy service, said he, with
 all my heart, replied the Palmer, and thank you too: Then he
 draped off his back, and gave him a stab to the Palmer, and so put
 on the Palmer's Cloak, then he took his way to the Cattle,
 where he found abundance of food more than he look'd for, but as
 the fair Johan did not know him, yet still he and he talked, that
 he got to far into Johans labours, that he gave him leave to see
 him: And then he knew Sir Bevis: For his good Aron-
 del having him taken, had taken Johns clothes, and deliv-
 er'd: Then Johan took Bevis alive, with her sword, and there
 they both revelled to be gone: Boniface her Chamberlain was
 a ready friend unto her, and belov'd to further their Jour-
 ney, he would do his best: Then said Johan to Bevis; My
 son, you shall have about me Cattle's wife, and I'll will
 give you a goodly horse, and a goodly sword, and a goodly
 dagger.

say to the King that you came from Juy, and that King Bradwin
 is besieged by the King of Syrack, and that he is like to lose his
 Kingdom: In the mean time King Jout came home, and Bevis
 told him all that Josian bid him: Why sent he not to me, said the
 King? He did send, replied he, but his Messengers were taken by
 Syrack: Then Jout swore by Mahound he would revenge his Bro-
 thers wrong: So with all speed he called an Army, and went to
 help his Brother, and left Sir Grally to watch his head till his
 return; King Jout being gone, they gave Sir Grally a sleep-
 yolk, which made him be like one that was dead for four and
 forty hours: In the mean time Bevis, Josian, and Boniface, got
 great store of Money and riches Jewels, and then away they came
 for Bag and; and on these three Travellers, they were so hard pursu-
 ed by Sir Grally, that they were forced to take for their curious a
 Cave for Shelter, so there they layed all one Night: next Morn-
 ing Sir Bevis went out to kill some Beast or other to Dine for Jo-
 sian, for the two Hungry: The while Bevis was abroad, there came
 into the Cave two dreadful Lyons which slew poor Boniface and eat
 him; while Josian was standing with fear, the Lyons went to her &
 laid their heads in her lap: By this time Bevis returned into the
 Cave, and seeing the blood and bones of Boniface, wonderd at it, &
 entering the Cave, Josian said, Good Bevis be careful, for here is
 two Lyons in the Cave with me, and they have slain Boniface and
 eaten him: Bevis answered, Art thou alive! By this I know thou
 art a pure Maid, Josian replied, I will hold the one, while thou
 kill the other: Nay (said he) let them both come together: Then
 Josian set them both at liberty, and they came full rade at him, but
 he, with his good Morglay, slew them both presently, and so the quar-
 rel was ended: Then Bevis & Josian refresht themselves, and rode
 onward on their Journey: and as they went, there met them Alca-
 part an ugly Giant, who was seven foot in length, and a foot be-
 tween his Eye-brows, he was builded like a Dwarf, and his bladder
 lay hanging one side; and meeting Alcapart said, stand, thee and
 thy Lady must along with me: Not so, said Bevis, thou shalt have
 but one of us, for I will try my Manhood with thee first, and if you
 get the day, take it and welcome: Then Josian held Arundel the
 whilst he fought with Alcapart: the fight continued a long time,
 yet Bevis avoiding his heavy blows, gave Alcapart many a wound,
 made

made him Roar extremely; and being mad, he said at him with his
 cruel Bar, thinking for to beat out his brains, but with that stroke
 his foot slipped, and down he fell: Bevis would have smote off his head,
 but Josian, being pitiful, said, Do not so, let him go with us: La-
 dy (said Bevis) he may betray us. By all my gods, said Ascapart,
 I swear if thou wilt save my life, I will be true to thee and thy La-
 dy; and do you what service I can. Then rise and live, said Be-
 vis: So Bevis and Josian mounted Arundel, and away they rode,
 with Ascapart by their side, till they came to the Sea, where they
 found many Sarazens, and a Ship bound for Christendom, but the
 Sarazens would not ferry them to the Ship; then Bevis and Asca-
 part made great slaughter among them, and killed abundance of
 them; then said Ascapart, let me alone, I will carry you to the
 ship, horse and all: So he took the horse under his arm, with Be-
 vis and Josian, and leaped to the ship, where they had welcome, &
 so sailed into the Land of Colen, where dwelt a Bishop that was
 Bevis's kinsman, who had them very welcome; and after much
 discourse, the Bishop said, What Country Lady is this? Bevis
 answered, The King of Almonies Daughter, and she would be-
 come a Christian for my sake. And what ill favoured Lubber is
 this? (said the Bishop) he is my Page, said he, and Josian and he
 would fain be Christianed. This Lubber is too big to be carried by
 a Midwife to the Font, said the Bishop: That is true, quoth Sir
 Bevis. But in the end, Josian was Christianed by the Bishop, and
 Ascapart had a Font made on purpose (to be Christianed in) that was
 very large; but when he came to be Christianed, Our Devil (quoth
 Ascapart) thou wilt drench me, I am too big to be Christianed by
 thee; and leapt over the Font, and away he went.

CHAP. 8.

How Bevis Saw a dreadful Dragon, and what after chanced.



BEvis being in bed, heard a Knight cry I Rot, I Rot, at which
 sad noise Bevis wondred, and the next morning he asked what
 was the cause of that noise: He was a Knight, said they, that com-
 ing through the street the Dragon met with, and cast her Venome
 upon him, whereof he rotted and dyed. Where is that Dragon?
 said Bevis. Not far from this Place, said they. Then Bevis
 called Ascapart to go with him, and Ascapart was very willing:
 So together they went, and when they came near the place whete
 the Dragon was, they heard the dreadfulllest yell that ever was:
 What Devil is that? quoth Ascapart. It is the Dragon,
 said Bevis, we shall see him anon. I'll go no farther, said Asca-
 part, if she Roars so loud before we come to her, what will she
 do when we fight with her. Fear not, said Bevis, we will teach
 her how to hold her Tongue. Marry teach her thy self, said
 Ascapart,

Ascapart, for I will go back again: Then farewell, said Bevis, I
 will go my self: so forward went Bevis, and backward went Asca-
 part, Bevis coming near the den, he made forth, but never was
 free a Dragon seen in it: Would as this was, from her head to
 Tail was full forty foot, her scales glittered as bright as Silver,
 and hard as Flint; here at the Devils face said: evis, ens out he
 here his good morning and on the Dragon laid but her scales was
 so hard, his sword could not pierce, & never entered: Then the Dragon
 smuck Bevis to the ground, and up he got again: But he came on so
 fast that Bevis went back, and by chance fell into a well, of the
 Dragon had digged him: It seemed the well was full water, and
 no danger might come with in seven foot of it: There Bevis refre-
 shed himself, and drank of the water: And recovering his strength,
 so the Dragon he went again to bite the other bone: but the Dra-
 gon could not bite it, for Bevis was afraid he should have lost
 his life, yet with a valiant stroke he smote to her death: The Dra-
 gon finding himself dying, with a portion of her breath upon him,
 which he thought would kill him, and his armour burst all to pie-
 ces: The Dragon then she lay to fill the turned him with her tail,
 that he smothered in the well, and the stink thereof expelled the
 Bevis, and he was dead: And found Bevis: and so in they had
 long time, and the Dragon could have been gone, and think-
 ing to make her full liked up her slings, here at the now, said
 here, and to whom she should give, giving her under the wing, pier-
 cing to the heart, with that she gave such a ree, which made the
 Bevis, and the King, and Bevis betrayed her, and put it upon
 his spear, and so to the point: And when the people saw him coming,
 they gave great shout, as at a Kings Coronation, and all the bells
 in the Town did Ring, and all manner of music play'd before
 Bevis, as he rode through the Town, where, with great Joy, his
 Father, mother and kin.

CHAP. 9.

How Devis raised an Army against Sir Mordure.

NOW Devis was willing to give over Castel, and set to get his own inheritance; he therefore got an Hundred Gallant Soldiers of his Uncle, and sailed into England, and landed near unto Southampton, and sent a Knight unto Sir Mordure, to tell him, that a Knight of Almain, bearing of his troubles, was come to aid and assist him against Sir Sabere: The Knight having told his Message, Sir Mordure desired to see him: Devis knowing that, went to the Castle; Sir Mordure and his wife bid him very welcome, and then desired to know his Name; my Name is Gerard, said Devis, and I bearing of thy Affairs, having brought over a Hundred Chosen Men, to help to maintain your right: I give you thanks, said Sir Mordure: Can you must furnish us with Weapons and Arms (quoth Devis) Y, and of the best I have, by charge: Can you charge us with Money and Food, said Sir Mordure: I can have at Sir Sabere, said Devis: So on Monday they went, and after Supper, Sir Mordure, to make his matter good, told Devis, that the Castle was once another Master than was his Predecessor: And said he, by what means was this? Can he receive a Child by his Lady? Yea, said Sir Mordure: Is he worthy Living? said Devis: I know not, quoth he, when he was young he sold me his Castle, and all his Inheritance, and spent the Money, and went beyond sea; and what is become of him I cannot tell: If he were such a one said Devis, it is no matter where he is. So after many several discourses of Foreign Countries, to which they went, and then Devis and his Men were furnished with all things fitting for service. Ships being prepared for that purpose, they took their leave of Sir Mordure and his Lady for that time, and sailed to the Isle of Wight, where Sir Sabere dwelt.



CHAP. 10.

How a Knight Wedded fair Josen in Colen, against her Will,
and what after befel.



Josen all this while was in Colen with Ascapart: In that
Country liv'd a Knight, called the Earl of Molo, who loved Josen,
but she would not yield unto his will; so take her by force he
dur'd not, for fear of Ascapart: Therefore he wrote Letters in the
Name of Sir Bevis, that Ascapart should come to him: When he
had done, he sent the Letters to Josen, and she received them as
from Sir Bevis: And then reading them, she was very glad to hear
from

from her dearest friend: So she gave the Earer a great Reward, and sent Ascapart with him, not thinking how he was betrayed: When as they came to the Castle, Ascapart was put into a Dungeon, in stead of firing his Waller: Then the lustful Earl went to Jolian, and told her how he had served her, and Ascapart was set in the Castle: Hast thou served me so, said she, think not hereby ever to have thy will on me: Then the blisful would have ravished her, but she (rather than suffer Rape) yielded to marry him: Then he was very joyful, and sent for all the Knights and Gentlemen, & the next day was married to Jolian: And after some feasting at Night, to Bed he went, and all his Valiant Knights was in the Chamber with him: Then Jolian (to have opportunity) pray'd him to lend all the Company away, which was accordingly presently: the Curtains being draw about the Bed, he undid his Coat, and as he sat by the Bed-side, he dropping it over his back, smothered him, & hung him over a Beam: In the Morning his Friends came to give him Joy: Jolian said how where he should: Then they were all amazed, yet they saw Jolian and carried her to the Stake to be burned: In the mean time Ascapart by the way of the Castle, and got into a Fisher boat, then Rowing himself to land, he met with Bevis, and told all that had happened: So they both went and found Jolian at a Stake to be burned; there they sought Concoitously, & Released Jolian, and then they went all three to Sir Sabere, where they were Royally Entertained.

CHAP. II.

How Febis and Sir Sabere raised Arms against Mordure, with other things that happened.

Then Bevis sent word to Sir Mordure, that he thanked him for his Arms, and bid him prepare for battle: So Mordure and his host came to the Isle of Wight, where Bevis met with him, and between them was a bloody battle: Sir Sabere, Bevis, and Ascapart made such havoc with them that they slew all that came near them: and Ascapart took Sir Mordure and carried him to the

the Castle, and put him in a Cauldron of boiling Water & Lye
done; the Alman's Ample, and the King of England with all
fores run away. Sir Mardur's Lady seeing this, ran her self



down from the Castle, and broke her neck: Then Bevis gave rich
Giles to the Souldiers, and was placed in Southampton: Thence
married Josian, and afterwards went to do homage to King Edgar,
who was exceeding joyful to see Bevis, and made him Lord Marshal
of England: The King's Son would have bought Arncliffe, but Bevis
would not sell it him for Gold nor Silver: Then the King would
take him by force, but coming into the Stable, Arncliffe beat out his
Brains: The King hearing this, was in wrath with Bevis, and
swore he should dye: but at last it was concluded, he should only be
banished the land: So Bevis surrendered up all his whole Estate
etc. Sabere, and took Josian, Terry, and Asa part along with him
and

And as they went, Josian fell in Labor; then were they in a Forest, and Josian bid them walk away till he was delivered: So Terry & Bevis went together, and Ascapart went another way; and when he was delivered, Ascapart came to Josian, and carryed her away: Bevis and Terry came and found two Children, but not the Mother, so Bevis took the Infants, naming the eldest Guy, and the younger Miles, and went his way, and in his journey was, accidentally, with a Forster and a Fisherman, whom with good store of Gold he hired to take his Children to Sea, and engaged them at seven years end, to bring them to one Bivis of Hampton, and they should be rewarded to their desires: They took the Infants and the Gold, promising to perform all things accordingly; and so Bevis and his Sons parted; but Sabere, and twelve Knights with him, followed Ascapart, in Palmers Weeds, and overtook him near the City of Ambrant, fought with him, and slew him on the place: When he redeemed safe Josian, to her great joy, and carrying her to his Inn, there he met with his Bevis and Terry; at which time, to complete their happiness the Forster and the Fisherman, brought Bevis's two Sons, who thanking them both for their care, gave them great Riches, and caused them to be made Knights: soon after this, there began a fierce War betweene John King of Ambrant, and Ermine, King of Armony, for Josians sake; whereupon Bevis went to the aid of Ermine, and took King Jour Prisoner, for whose Ransom, he had Twenty Tun of Gold, and three Hundred white Breeds.

King Ermine was so highly affected with his labour, that for Bevis, his sake, he turned Christian, and a little before his decess, Crowned Guy King of Armony, and Miles he made a Knight, where they lived a space in great happiness and felicity; but King Jour bearing an inward grudge, or inveterate malice against Bevis, he once more desired to try the fortune of War with him; so he raised a great Army of Heathenish Saracens, who, with undaunted Courage, assailed Bevis in Armony, being led on by King Jour himself in person: These charged not so gallantly, but they were repulsed as hables, and in short time totally routed by the invincible power of our English Knights. In this skirmish, Sir Bevis meeting King Jour, had a single combat with him, in which fight, after

After many bloody strokes on both sides, King Iour was slain, & his Army was wholly vanquished: Bevis then putting on the Armour of King Iour, rode to the city of Mambrant, where he was received and welcomed home by the people: instead of their King: He no sooner got possession of the place, but he made them all become his servants, and renounce their false Gods, and turn Christians, and by this means, his fair Lady Josian, was the second time at Mambrant.



C H A P. 12.

Containing the Conclusion of the History.

WHilst Sabere continued thus with Bevis, tidings came unto him, that his wife was dishonoured by Edgar, King of England; whereupon, he, with Bevis, Josian, and his two sons, Guy and Miles, marcht to London with a great Army, and fought against King Edgar, who was assisted of his souldiers for the taking he had done unto him, and to Sabere, and then he returned to Southampton, where King Edgar sent unto him for a parly, and in the conclusion made a peace with him, and agreed to marry his eldest Daughter unto Miles, (Bevis his son) whom at that time (also) he made Earl of Cornwall; the wedding being solemnized with great joy, and variety of Courtly Recreations. Sir Bevis, with Josian, and Guy his eldest son, returned to their several houses: After this, Bevis lived in Mambrant, and when Josian fell sick, who was accompanied by her beloved husband both in sickness and in death: They dyed both in one day, and were solemnly Interred in one Grave, by Guy their son, who raised a stately Tomb over them, to the Everlasting Memory of so Gallant a Knight, and his most Royal Constant Lady.

So I conclude his Famous Act: here Pen'd;

For Time and Death brings all things to an

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